

Sir: Being an old reader and ardent admirer of the FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, a citizen of Tennessee, and formerly a resident of Nashville, I take the liberty of enclosing to you the "Declaration of Principles" of the Nashville Union Club, with the view of making such remarks thereon, and also touching the members and the constitution of said club, as a long and deep and very extensive acquaintance enable me to call to mind. And here allow me to say that I have no desire to trespass upon the field of "our CHARLES," to whom I had the pleasure of an introduction on a recent visit. The task I am about to undertake is not at all suited to his tastes and retiring habits, and it is questionable if he does more than allude to the subject.

The following is the document alluded to: A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BY THE NASHVILLE UNION CLUB, NUMBERING 573 MEMBERS. Unanimously adopted at the meeting of said club on the 21st of April, 1863.

"We, a portion of the loyal citizens of Tennessee, having associated ourselves under the name of the 'Nashville Union Club,' wishing to prevent any misapprehension relative to our objects, deem it our duty to declare to the people of the United States, the leading principles and sentiments we entertain.

"We declare ourselves to be true and loyal citizens of the United States, and claim to be entitled to all the immunities arising therefrom, and under all the obligations appertaining to such citizenship. We support the Constitution of the United States, and cling to it as the palladium of our liberties. We are 'Union men,' and being convinced that our peace, prosperity, and happiness depend upon the preservation of the Federal Union, we are in favor of maintaining it, at all hazards and to the last extremity, with or without slavery. We uphold the Government of the United States, and declare ourselves to be the friends of its friends, and foes to its foes. We desire to be treated as friends by the unconditionally loyal in all the States of the Federal Union.

"We recommend the organization of Union Clubs, or Leagues, in Tennessee, for the purpose of securing the benefit of mutual counsel and advice, and the restoration of law and order, of promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity; of assisting the civil and military authorities, by furnishing reliable information, such as may be needful to guard them against imposition from rebel sympathizers; and of aiding the government of the United States in every way to the fullest extent of our ability, in suppressing this unjustifiable, unnecessary and monstrous rebellion.

"We are for a vigorous prosecution of the war, until the rebels throw down their arms without conditions, and for depriving the rebel master of his slave, and every other species of property, as one of the measures of punishment for his treason. We heartily approve of, and hereby pledge ourselves to, the support of the President of the United States, in all measures deemed needful for the suppression of the rebellion.

"We are for depriving disloyal citizens and seditious office-seekers of the Northern States, of all temptation to bid for Southern votes, by establishing the policy, once for all, that no one now in arms against the government or in any way in the interest of the rebellion, and especially no disloyal slaveholder, shall ever share in ruling the destinies of this nation at the ballot box, until at least as much time has elapsed as is required of unbiased and unprejudiced foreigners, before exercising the same franchise; or until it shall have become evident that, in their family and social circles, feelings of patriotism have supplanted those of treason. And inasmuch as so many of the once honored citizens of Tennessee have proved themselves recreant, and unable to appreciate a good government, we cordially invite the lovers of freedom in every land to settle in our midst, and unite with us in perpetuating the blessings of republican institutions. And we do now declare it to be the duty of all Union men throughout the State, to exert their influence so to shape our institutions, as to give every possible inducement to immigration.

"We do most solemnly affirm, as the result of our life-long acquaintance, and of our intimate familiarity with all its workings, that the institution of slavery tends to dishonor labor and smother enterprise; is incompatible with an intelligent public policy, sound morality, the safety and permanency of the Republic, the development of the resources of the State; that it roots out the industries, and has the effect of lessening the free population of the country.

"We, therefore, hold it to be the true interest of the people of this commonwealth to abolish the institution of slavery at the earliest practicable period within which the emancipation of slaves can be effected, with safety to the slaves and justice to loyal masters.

"Reported by H. R. MYERS, WM. SHANK, D. D. DICKEY, Committee.

"A true copy from the minutes: A. B. SHANKLAND, Secretary."

I can easily understand what you think of this document, and of the "573" members of the Club, as a whole, and as a body; but I beg that you will not believe that it emanates from or is approved by citizens of Nashville. I was in that city on the day that the Declaration appeared in the paper called the Nashville Union, and tried earnestly, industriously, and perseveringly, to find a citizen who knew H. R. Myers, the name of the chairman of the com-

mittee, but in vain. Five prominent men, one of whom was an intimate friend of Gen. Jackson, and has been a politician for forty years, had not the least idea as to who he was. Since I returned home, or rather to my present residence, I have learned that H. R. Myers came from California, and accompanied Gen. Johnson to Tennessee, when the last named gentleman went to Nashville to assume the functions of Military Governor. Of Shane and Dickey, I will speak hereafter.

The Constitution of the Union Club was published on the same day. From it I learn:

"The objects of the association are hereby declared to be the promotion of the interest and success of the Federal cause in Tennessee, by aiding, as far as proper or practicable, the military and other authorities of the United States. Secondly, To bring the organization in contact with said authorities, so far as to secure individual aid or protection when necessary, and to secure the release of persons and property to loyal citizens, and save the military authorities from being imposed upon by disloyal or unworthy persons, and to give them such local information as will enable them, as far as may be, to administer their authority judiciously. Thirdly, To secure the benefits of mutual counsel and protection. The club shall have power to place the seal of secrecy upon any of its proceedings, and a violation of any order to that effect shall forfeit membership."

I have italicized some portions of the above paragraph to show that I believe individual benefit is the prime mover of the machine, and that the members are willing to sacrifice the prosperity, and even the lives of their fellow citizens, provided they can profit by it, and that their racecraft will not be known.

I propose now to make the following additional extract, from the Constitution, the text or subject of some unanswerable facts: "QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—No one shall be admitted a member of the Club, who has not been since the commencement of the present rebellion a 'Union man,' loyal to the government of the United States."

Spending a few days at McWhartersville, Tenn., about the month of June, I think, in 1861, the place was in a state of excitement on the subject of the war; and among other gentlemen there, for the purpose of making speeches to screw up the courage of the boys and sinew to the enlistment point, was one well known in Nashville for the earnestness of his language and the violence of his gestures. Of course I cannot remember the tenth part of what he said; but he urged the young men especially, to take hold of the matter like men. 'You must make this a war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt! until the usurper is crushed, and we are free!' This same gentleman afterwards ran for the office of 3d Lieutenant in the Nashville Guards, but was defeated by Lafayette Beech, who is now John Hugh Smith, Mayor of Nashville, and President of the Union Club.

The following extracts are copied from a letter dated Liberty, May 10, 1861, and directed to John Duncan, McMinnville, Tenn., and published in the Nashville Banner:

"I have been a zealous advocate of the Union up to the time of Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops. That being in violation of law, and for the subjugation of the South, I commended Gov. Harris for his answer, and was for arming the State, and resisting Lincoln to the bayonet, and have enrolled my name as a volunteer to resist his usurpations. I have always opposed secession, but claim the right of revolution, and the right to resist oppression from the Federal Government, and to throw off allegiance to the same when that oppression becomes intolerable. That time has now come. * * * The South ought to be a unit during the war."

This precious letter is signed by that steadfast loyal man from the beginning, Wm. B. Stokes, Colonel of Stokes Cavalry, who recently resigned, but is said to be again in the field fighting for his darling Union.

Ex-Gov. Campbell, who figures as one of the "573" loyal from the commencement, said in May, 1861: "Our State will need the services of all her sons, and mine shall be with her in that capacity in which I think I can serve her best. I want no place or position in civil life; and I can give any person, at any moment, as a soldier, when I shall be needed."

An address was published in April, 1861, to the People of Tennessee, signed by Neil S. Brown, Russell Houston, R. J. Meigs (late in your city) B. Peyton, John S. Brien, etc., from which I copy the following:

"We do not pretend to be able to tell the future purposes of the President (Lincoln) and Cabinet, in reference to the impending war; but should a purpose be developed by the Government of overruling and subjugating our brethren of the seceded States, we say unequivocally, that it will be the duty of this State to resist, at all hazards, at any cost, and by arms, any such purpose or attempt; and to meet any and all emergencies, we ought to be fully armed; and we would especially call upon the authorities of the State to proceed at once to the accomplishment of this object. Let Tennessee, then, prepare thoroughly and efficiently for coming events."

If this be loyalty, what is treason? William Shane, the present City Recorder, and one of the signers of the "Declaration," was always loyal to the Government of the United States as may be easily proved by the fact that he aided materially in raising and organizing in Nashville a company of rebels, called the Light Artillery, of which he was elected first lieutenant in April, 1861—about the 24th I think, when it was organized for active service.

At a meeting of the Common Council, Mr. Shane, one of the members, offered a preamble and resolutions of which I copy a part, to show how this gentleman displayed his loyalty to the Washington Government:

"Whereas, the State of Tennessee has, by a popular majority unprecedented within the history of the State, voted the State a member of the Confederate States of America, and we look upon the separation of the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States as inevitable

at no distant day; and, further, we consider the city of Nashville the most appropriate place for the permanent location of the Confederate States Capital, on its central position, health, climate, and impossibility of attack by a foreign enemy, as well as many other reasons, therefore,

"Resolved, That the sum of five hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of buying, building and furnishing a residence for the President of the Confederate States, and that we tender the hospitalities of the city, and all of the public buildings of the city, as offices for the various departments of our Government, etc., etc."

Adopted unanimously by both Boards, the following loyal men being present and voting in the affirmative in the Common Council: William Shane, J. J. Barbraugh, William S. Brien, and the following Union members of the Board of Aldermen: M. M. Brien, R. J. Meigs, Jr., J. M. Hinton, R. J. Meigs, Jr.

If I am not much out of my reckoning, A. V. S. Lindsey, the present postmaster; I believe, of Nashville, and a member of the Union Club, served on a committee to uniform the Marion Dragoons.

D. D. Dickey and A. B. Shankland may have been Union men when I was doing business in Nashville, but if at their friends were deceived in them. They are or were quiet, respectable gentlemen, who attend more to their legitimate business than to politics.

Andrew Anderson, the President of the Common Council now, was then Treasurer of the Old Guard, and Alderman Cooper was a member of the same company.

Dr. R. T. Conley, member of the Executive Committee of the Union Club, and in the secret service of the Government, declared, in his published card on the 7th of June, 1861, his intention to vote for separation and representation, and said, "I think the South ought to be a unit."

Jan. 1861, I think, for the rebellion. Alderman (at present) Wm. S. Chatham published a similar card on the same day in the Union and American.

So far as I can remember or learn from friends of the eight Aldermen now presumed to represent the eight wards of Nashville, (none of whom, however, were elected by the people, as the law required.) H. G. Seavey was always a Union man, beyond doubt, and has been and is now a consistent, honest man; M. G. L. Claiborne I think was always Union, but manifested largely for the Confederate Government; that was a matter of business, however, for which he is not to blame. The rest were either good secessionists, or had a singular way of showing their loyalty to the Federal Government.

Of the sixteen members of the present Common Council, I think of only one who was thought a Union man in 1861, after the State seceded by that overwhelming majority—that one man is James Turner. Of the others, Abe Myers was so terribly afflicted with secession that he refused to employ any but good Southern men in his factory, and preferred manufacturing gun carriages for the rebels to any other kind of work; indeed he was so very particular in regard to this kind of work that he devoted his entire time to the supervision of that department. Charles Sayers was one of the tallest and proudest of corporals when serving in that capacity in the Nashville Home Guard, from May, 1861. Jeff Burroughs was cracking jokes, doing carpenter work, and talking secession equal to the best of us, so far as his ability extended, and that was considerable. All the others, one way or another, gave evidence of their approval of the rebellion, and most of them worked for the cause.

I need scarcely mention Gov. Andrew Johnson; his principles are known all over. But next to him I know very few, from the highest officers of the State (I mean, of course, those appointed under Gov. Johnson, not constitutional officers) down to the night watchman or fireman of the city, who were not favorable to the Southern cause. I have named Seavey and Turner, and believe I may add the Secretary of State, East, and Wm. Driver, member of the city council, assessor, member of the board of claims, etc., etc.

M. M. Brien, President of the Board of Aldermen and (by appointment of Gov. Johnson) Judge of the Criminal Court, dismissed Charlie Diggins, the regularly elected and qualified clerk of the court, because he refused to take an oath not required by law, (having previously been sworn into office for two years,) and appointed to fill his place W. L. Horn, who was elected Captain of the Shelby Dragoons, and who would still be serving the Confederacy, judged that he had not lost his leg before the company was ready to leave. The quiet, good-natured, honest Charlie is now I believe in the penitentiary, and I am informed that Bill Horn failed to procure bonds acceptable, so that another clerk was appointed. Fletcher Horn, a brother of Bill's, was third sergeant in the same company, and is now in the Fire Department.

Of citizens of Nashville, I do not know twenty who are properly qualified to become members of the Union Club; and of the 573 members, I have been unable to learn of more than ten well-known citizens, outside of those in the government employ or holding office of some character or other not given them by the people.

I might say much more on this subject, and to the point, but I fear I have already taken up too much of your time, and will close by assuring you that respectable citizens of Tennessee hold no such agrarian opinions as are expressed in the "declaration," and also that every word I have written is true to the letter, and can be proven if necessary. None respect individual opinion more than I, and I will here say that I honor and revere the man that will maintain his principles at every hazard, rather than yield them for profit or favor. Such a few Tennessee citizens whom I have the honor to number among my personal friends, but they are not members of the Union Club, although I am one of the first water. Respectfully, your old servant,

A. T. SHANKLAND IN EXILE.

TELEGRAPHIC.

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES.]

Latest from Mississippi.

VICKSBURG CLOSELY BESIEGED.

NORTHERN NEWS.

IMMENSE MASS MEETING IN NEW YORK.

VAILANDHAM'S SENTENCE.

The Administration vehemently Denounced.

LATE EUROPEAN NEWS.

Federal Steamers Captured.

NEW YORK, May 21st.—The special reporter of the Advertiser and Register, telegraphs from Jackson today that the latest news from Vicksburg, is to Tuesday night. In the light on Saturday we lost thirty pieces of artillery, which were spiked and abandoned. On Sunday the Federal advanced to take Big Black bridge, but were repulsed. They then crossed higher up, and took the river. The bridge was burned and our works abandoned. Our loss heavy. Vicksburg is now closely besieged. The enemy is closing in on every side.

Gen. Grant has received command at Jackson. Persimmon, May 21st.—The New York Herald of the 18th contains the latest news from Grant, through Federal channels to the 11th. Gen. Logan and Osterhouse were moving toward Jackson, driving the Rebels before them. Bowen with a reported force of fifteen thousand was before them, while Grant was marching upon Black river, expecting to engage Pemberton at the bridge over that stream. Pemberton's force was estimated at 50,000, strongly entrenched near the bridge. A great battle there was imminent. The health of the Yankee army was said to be superb. Private advice stated that arrangements for the destruction of Vicksburg and the capture of the Rebel army were so complete that it cannot much longer hold out.

The traffic of the seaboard road was being taken up by the Norfolk forces between Clarksville and the Junction with the Norfolk Railroad.

CINCINNATI, May 19th.—The Rebels are collecting a large cavalry force south of the Cumberland river, and a large infantry force to East Tennessee, which will advance into Kentucky this month, under Breckinridge.

Recessant order recites the proceedings of the Vailandham court martial, the finding of which is a sentence to close confinement during the war, in some fortress to be selected by the commander of the department. The order named Fort Warren as the place of confinement. An immense mass meeting was held in Union Square, New York, on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Democratic Union Association, to protest against the recent arbitrary acts of the administration in the suppression of free speech and the freedom of the press. Four stands were erected and there were speakers at all of them. The Herald says it was the largest meeting held in the city during the war. One of the speakers said that the Northern of the present day was daily leaving, who defied the will of a brave corps to Vailandham. The same speaker also warned to remind Lincoln that Gen. Grant had his Butler Charles the First his Cromwell; let him remind George the Third of the present day, that he too may have his Cromwell or his Brutus. (Cheers.) All the speakers denounced the administration, and were loudly applauded.

Gold and foreign exchange unchanged.

RENO, May 21st.—Northern dates to the 15th have arrived. Advice from New Orleans to the 5th brings the news of the capture of Alexandria, La., by Admiral Porter. The Herald says that at least accounts Grant was awaiting reinforcements which were moving to his support from various points along the river from Memphis to Baton Rouge.

Gold was unchanged.

The steamer City of New York had arrived with Liverpool dates of the 10th. Minister Adams had addressed a deputation of the Trades' Unionists who presented an address sympathizing with the emancipation proclamation. Adams expressed the hope that friendly relations would be maintained between the two countries. There was no nation held for which Americans entertain greater regard than for England. If the real sentiments of the people of each country could be clearly established we would have no fear of their coming in collision. The Times correspondent that neither England nor America wish to go to war with each other. It says "we must submit to interruptions to our trade in deference to the rights of a belligerent." The reply of the Crar in regard to Poland is satisfactory to France but unsatisfactory to England.

CHARLESTON, May 21st.—The steamship Norman, with one hundred and fifty bales of cotton, bound for New York, in going out last night struck a snag (supposed to be the wreck of the Georgiana.) She was wrecked and seen ashore on Long Island beach, and is believed to be a total wreck.

The Court of Inquiry to investigate matters in relation to the fall of New Orleans, recently in session in Jackson, Miss., will meet today in this city, according to adjournment. The object of the adjournment in Charleston was for the purpose of having the evidence of officers in this Department, who, under present circumstances, could not leave their post. After examination of officers here the Court will adjourn to Richmond to further prosecute the investigation. It is to be hoped that this important military question will be most thoroughly investigated, and that blame, if any, will be laid at the proper door. The Court consists of the following gentlemen: General Hindman, President; Generals Drayton and Gardner, and Major Page, Judge Advocate.

Charleston, May 21, 1863.

The Rebel.

Early on Thursday morning last, the Federal army in strong force, was engaged with two miles of Jackson, and about the clock, the whole town was aroused by the booming of cannon. Very soon all became head and confusion. Wagons and drags were in great request. The departing railroad trains were crowded to overflowing, and yet there were not accommodations for half of those who wished to escape the clutches of the Yankees.

Fortunately, most of the Government property and stores had been removed in advance, and much of what was left was thrown in the streets and appropriated by the retreating soldiers or other persons, who chose to encounter themselves with the cost of property.

But a feeble resistance was made by small force who were sent out to hold the enemy in check. No serious engagement was intended or expected, but about twelve o'clock our troops commenced firing through the streets, taking the road to Canton. We had a few cannon, some ten or twelve, in position in the rifle pits, manned, however, by raw troops, which served a very good purpose in staying the progress of the enemy, who did not enter the town until about half past two o'clock in the evening. A Georgia and South Carolina regiment, we learn, were the only infantry engaged. We heard from stragglers that they suffered pretty severely, though as yet we have been unable to gather any particulars of our loss, either in killed or wounded.

Our troops retired through the city in perfect order, in high spirits, and with a defiant step. They will yet give the Yankees a sample of their prowess when they shall meet them in any thing like equal force. General Gregg and Walker were in command. General Johnston arrived the evening before, too late to be of any service in an effort to hold the place. Had he, with his reinforcements, got down forty-eight hours sooner, Jackson might have been saved from invasion and pillage. Let us hope that he may yet be instrumental in saving Vicksburg from a similar fate.

Through a dispatch received last night from Jackson, we are put in possession of some of the depredations and robberies committed upon the people of that unfortunate place.

On Main street, says the dispatch, Patten's building and Green's banking house were burned. Green's loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars. We presume this includes the loss of his cotton factory, which was burned. The Confederate house and all buildings in front of it were burned, together with the incendiary and all machine shops in the city. Every store but two were gutted, and houses robbed indiscriminately. The Baptist printing office was saved by a Federal guard being placed around it. The Mississippi office was gutted, the presses being broken to pieces and the type thrown into the street.

[We are gratified to state that the proprietors of the Mississippi succeeded in moving away most of their material, and there could not have been a great deal left behind for destruction, if we except a large live press, on which the Weekly Mississippian was printed.]

The material of the Appeal office left behind was not disturbed, except the large safe, which was blown to atoms. Fortunately we had removed the contents, and the Yankees did not rob us of much in its destruction.

The same dispatch informs us that Grant's army had gone to Vicksburg. A fight was reported as having occurred at Big Black on Friday and Saturday. Reports are conflicting though the last day's engagement is represented as being unfavorable to our side. Before going to press we may be put in possession of later telegraphic accounts.

M. C. CAYCE & CO.
(LATE OF NEW YORK.)
AUCTIONEERS, COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
AND

GENERAL AGENTS
For the Sale of everything offered in the Southern
Confederate States.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
Corner of Bridge and Marietta Streets.

NEGROES AND REAL ESTATE
WILL BE OUR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

Having been raised in the South, and 33 years in the above business, (17 years in Memphis,) we trust is sufficient to insure a liberal share of patronage.

—We respectfully beg leave to refer to all the
citizens of Memphis. (may16-1m)

CONFEDERATE SHOE FACTORY.—Corner of Whitehall and Gardner streets, Atlanta, Ga. The undersigned have been operating this Factory since its commencement and has now in successful operation, and have improved machinery for the production of shoe lasts. We are prepared to fill all orders at short notice. Our numbers and sizes will be found accurate. We keep constantly on hand a large assortment. Since manufacturers and dealers in shoe lasts will find it to their advantage to order from us at the Factory or from our agent, J. T. Banks, OSLATER & HILLS, Whitehall street.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Described on the night of the 23d inst. Pleasant C. Hall, a private of our company, B. 31st Tennessee regiment, is 25 years old, weighs 135 pounds, 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, dark complexion, dark hair, I am not positive as to the color of his eyes, I think they are blue. He has a stammer in his speech. He was in bed for six weeks by Chamber's county Alabama, where he was raised. I will give fifty dollars for his safe delivery in jail, and notify me or Jesse Fitzpatrick, at Dudleyville, Alabama.

WM. F. COLLINS.

Capt. Co. B, 33d Tenn. Regt. Major's Bat.

may16-1w

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.—For the apprehension of a negro boy, Walker, which was at Middleton, Tennessee, on the night of the 26th of April. The said Walker, is about twenty-five years of age, dark complexion, six feet high, knock-kneed, a little hump shouldered, with a scar over one of the eyes, and quick spoken. He is said to be in his way to Chambers county Alabama, where he was raised. I will give fifty dollars for his safe delivery in jail, and notify me or Jesse Fitzpatrick, at Dudleyville, Alabama.

JESSE T. FITZPATRICK.

Capt. Co. F, 1st Ala. Cav. Regt.

may16-1w

A. J. HARALSON—R. L. HOOKE.

HARALSON & HOOKE.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

AND DEALERS IN

FAMILY GROCERIES,

PROVISIONS,

AND COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Market St. 3d door North Market House.

Refer to business men of Chattanooga.

(may16-1m)

WHEREAS MY MULE?—Strayed from the under-

signed on Sunday May 17th, 1863, one medium sized Sorrel Mare Mule, with a scar on her left shoulder, named by the trader there is also a scar on her mouth, named by the bride bit. Any person finding the same and returning it to me, will be rewarded for their trouble. Please have her at the store named of Walker & Spencer.

may16-1w

JAMES SPENCER.